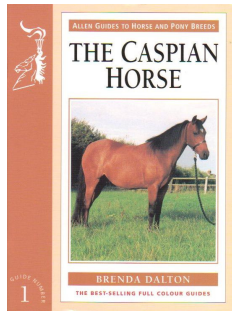


The following books by Brenda Dalton are available:

The Caspian Horse Photographic Guide (J A Allen Books) ISBN 0-85131797-9



This book is part of the J A Allen series of photoguides to horse and pony breeds and contains 63 (mainly) colour photos. It is a short guide to the history and uses of the Caspian.

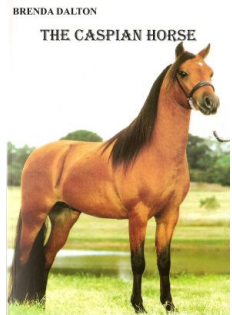
It is available from the Author (details below) and through the International Caspian Society website:

www.caspianhorses.org

and from all good bookshops and Amazon.

The Caspian Horse (Plausible Publishing) ISBN 978-0-9549362-2-8

This book contains 60 photographs and illustrations and contains 116 pages. It considers evidence that the Caspian is a horse (although it stands only 9 hands – 13 hands) and almost certainly dates back to 3000BC. It also illustrates the ancestral position of the Caspian as the probable predecessor to the Arab horse.



The book relates the history of the breed and documents attempts by Louise Firouz to expand the small remnant population in Iran, repressed by revolution and war, and the removal of a small number to the UK, prompted by HRH Prince Philip, which ensured their existence today. It sets out the achievements of a small nucleus of individual breeders and owners in the UK, Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Europe and Scandinavia

It is available from the Author (details below) and through the International Caspian Society website: www.caspianhorses.org

It will be available from August 2010 from all good bookshops and Amazon.

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THE CASPIAN STORY FOR YOUNG ENTHUSIASTS

By Brenda Dalton



Photo: Lynn Harper , USA

THE HISTORY OF THE CASPIAN HORSE

Five hundred years before Christ was born, Persia was ruled by King Darius the Great. Darius was renowned for his great skill in the arena fighting lions. The lions were large and ferocious and the arena was small. The King knew that his reputation as a great leader depended on his success and that he must rely on the speed and turning ability of the horses that he chose to pull his chariot.

First, they had to be small. Second, they had to be fast and able to turn quickly. They had to be obedient and follow instructions immediately. Most of all they had to be brave - brave enough to stand and face huge lions so that the King could aim and fire arrows from his bow over their heads. Darius chose the little horses which had been brought to him as presents from an area of Iran called Kermanshah, where there is evidence that they had existed since at least three thousand years before the birth of Christ.

King Darius liked the Caspian horses so much that he had them drawn on the seal which he used on all documents issued by the King.

Many wars were fought in Persia in the years that followed and, during this time, most of the documents that mentioned the little horses were lost. Larger horses were used in battle and no-one heard of the small horse of Darius for almost a thousand years.

CASPIANS WERE REDISCOVERED IN IRAN IN 1965

In 1965, an American lady living in Iran (which Persia is now called) found one of these tiny horses on the shores of the Caspian sea in Northern Iran and so she called them 'Caspian' horses.

She used the horses in her riding school and she found that they were able to jump as high as some of the large school horses. She also found that they could keep up with the large horses at all paces, except the gallop.

She knew that there was something very unusual about the Caspian because, although it was only the size of a pony, it looked just like a horse, so she started to make some enquiries about its history and, at the same time, searched for more Caspians in the mountains. She found only a very small number.



One of the things she discovered about the Caspian was that it probably existed before the Arab horse, which, until then, everyone thought was the oldest horse breed in the world.

When the Shah of Iran heard about the horses that Louise Firouz had found, he thought that they should be preserved as part of the history of Iran and bought them from her.

Louise searched the mountains around the Caspian Sea to find a few more Caspians from which she could breed a new herd. She gave a mare and a stallion to H.R.H. Prince Philip and sold several more to a small stud in England. She had built up the new herd to about 23 when they were attacked by wolves and three of them were killed. In order to save some of the herd, seven were sold to England. The remaining Caspians joined the ones owned by the Shah.

At that time, however, the Shah was involved in a struggle for power in Iran and it was a battle that he didn't win. No-one was allowed to own horses in Iran for ten years because the valuable feed was needed for the people.

It was then that Iran went to war with Iraq and the few Caspians that remained were swept up, along with most of the horses in Iran, for use in the war.

In the meantime, the horses were being bred in England and several of them were sold to New Zealand and Australia. They soon proved to be capable of doing many things and took part in showing, jumping, gymkhana and

driving. As there were so few of them, in the early days, the mares were mainly used for breeding.

All members of the family were able to use the Caspian.



A pure bred Caspian stallion standing 11.2 hands high

DESCRIPTION

The Caspian horse is about the same size as a Welsh pony but it is narrower and has longer, smoother strides. They are sensible, friendly and intelligent. This makes them very easy to break to a saddle or harness.

They are usually bay or chestnut; sometimes grey, roan, black or dun. They are much stronger than they look. They do not need a great deal of food and often live outside quite happily, provided that they have shelter from the rain and the sun.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW?

Caspian horses are now bred in England, Australia, New Zealand, America, Scandinavia and Europe. There are now over 1000 Caspians around the world and they are used for jumping, showing, driving, mounted games and dressage. They are also popular in riding schools and they have been used for Riding for the Disabled.

A part bred mare from a quarter horse mother, standing approximately 13.2 hands.

There are now sufficient numbers to preserve the pure bred Caspian so some breeders are now using larger mares from other breeds to cross with the stallions to breed larger ponies with the same attributes as the Caspian, such as their narrow build, their steady temperament and intelligence and their incredible jumping ability.

